

AMHERST PUBLIC ART COMMISSION

Fiscal Year 2007

Members: Candace Bradbury-Carlin, Sylvia Cuomo, Carl Erikson, Mary S. McCarthy, Terry Rooney, and Larry Siddall.

In December 2005, APAC received a grant of \$1,000 from the Amherst Cultural Council to commission “Architectural Gems of Amherst,” a mural for the entrance of the Boltwood Walk Parking Garage. A competition was announced in the spring of 2006; the selected muralist was local artist, Briana Taylor. The mural features various Amherst sites, e.g. sections of the National Yiddish Book Center, Amherst College, Jones Library and West Cemetery. Briana completed the first section in the fall of 2006, and the ribbon cutting was documented in the local media and well received by the local community. Someone visiting Amherst from the Washington D.C. area contacted us, complimenting our town on the variety of artwork and our new mural, and wanted guidance on how to start a public art project in their community. APAC received a second grant from Amherst Cultural Council for the second wall of the garage entrance, which will be completed by Briana Taylor in the fall of 2007.

The Amherst Public Art Commission (APAC) continues its successful Visiting Art Program, now in its 7th year. This year, our committee jury-selected four wonderful artists: Steve Wilda (graphite), Gineen Cooper (printing on fabric), Michael Phillis (photographs) and Kathleen Gougou (oil paintings) to exhibit this year and into next. Several works were sold by the artists, which earned \$207 in commissions for APAC. This enables APAC to continue giving a \$100 honorarium to each artist to help defray the costs of exhibiting. We have been fortunate to have the local media cover every artist for the last 3 years, with either articles or photographs of every exhibition. Also, we have joined and support the Amherst ArtsWalk, held every first Thursday of the month. This fall, APAC will open a call for artists for next year’s Visiting Art Program, our 8th year.

APAC is also involved with 250th Anniversary Committee in helping select a “Legacy Art Piece” to give to the Town in celebration of this anniversary.

APAC is very grateful for the funding it receives from the Amherst Cultural Council and the support of local businesses, especially Cowles Building Supply.

APAC currently has \$1,700 in its account with the Amherst Cultural Council and \$207 in its account with the Town Treasurer.

Terry Rooney, Chair